

19 JUL 1971

Mr. J. F. C. Hyde, Jr.
Office of Assistant Director
for Legislative Reference
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Hyde:

This is in response to your request for our views on the State Department's position to S. 1397, a bill "To amend the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948."

S. 1397 is so broadly stated that all U. S. assistance, direct or indirect, to the information programs of foreign governments would have to be terminated and none could be undertaken in the future.

The bill would adversely affect certain classified activities which this Agency is carrying out pursuant to requirements levied upon this Agency by higher authority. I will be pleased to discuss this further with you should you so desire.

For these reasons, this Agency objects to the bill and supports the position of the State Department.

Sincerely,



John M. Maury
Legislative Counsel

25X1A

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Adse
1 - Subj
1 - Chrn

OLC/PLC:smg (16 July '71)

State Dept., OGC reviews completed. On file OMB release instructions apply.

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

OLC 7D35

EXTENSION

NO.

OLC 71-0491

DATE

29 June 1971

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. OGC

2. EA/DDP

3. SAVA

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Attached is a proposed report by the Dept. of State opposing a bill which seeks to ban information activities outside the U.S. by Federal agencies.

You are probably aware of the background of this measure, but for your information also attached is an excerpt from the Congressional Record in which Senator Church explains his position at length.

OMB is clearing the proposed report to Chairman Fulbright on this bill with NSC, DOD, USIA, AID, and CIA.

May we have your views on State's proposed report so that we can advise OMB of the Agency's position before 16 July.

Views are also being requested from

25X1A

SAVA conducted in draft of 1 July. D.C.

FORM 3-62

610

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1. EA/DDP

80 JUN 1971

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Views are also being requested from SAVA and OGC.

(Two copies attached.)

1/22 - 1/22 - 1/22

SUSPENSE. 13 JULY 71

Would you please prepare coordinated response including views of appropriate CS components. (Person for above suspense note is to give the JDP and the material)

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FORWARDED

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1. OGC

6/29/71

6/30/71

[REDACTED]

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1-2

We concur —
but what is CIA
doing about its
position?

25X1A

concurd in prop & draft.

FORM
3-62

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

11-0491

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM

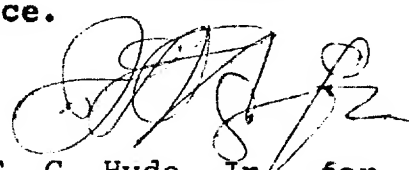
To: Legislative Liaison Officer
National Security Council
Department of Defense
U. S. Information Agency
Agency for International Development
Central Intelligence Agency

Subject: State Dept's proposed report on S. 1397, a bill "To amend the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948."

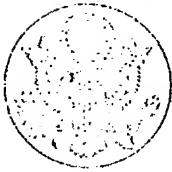
The Office of Management and Budget would appreciate receiving the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President, in accordance with Budget Circular A-19.

- (x) To permit expeditious handling, it is requested that your reply be made within 30 days.
- () Special circumstances require priority treatment and accordingly your views are requested by

Questions should be referred to Terry Deibel (103x4580) or to Ralph Burr (103x4710), the legislative analyst in this office.


J. F. C. Hyde, Jr., for
Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

Honorable J. W. Fulbright
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am replying to your letter of April 2, 1971, in which you request Executive Branch comment on S. 1397 -- a bill to amend the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948.

The Department of State and other agencies concerned with foreign affairs believe that adoption of this amendment would place undue restraints on overseas information programs which are of considerable importance to our foreign policy objectives, and that it should not be enacted. In particular, it would prematurely terminate information programs in South Viet-Nam which already are scheduled for transfer to the Government of Viet-Nam in the near future.

In South Viet-Nam, assistance is being provided the Vietnamese Government, through the Joint United States Public Affairs Office (JUSPAO), for the purpose of enabling that government to improve its public information programs. Using funds from the United States Information Agency, supplemented by funds from the Agency for International Development and the Defense Department, JUSPAO has been assisting in the construction and operation of mass media communication facilities; providing general advisory assistance to enable the Vietnamese Information Ministry to improve its personnel, training programs, and organization; and assisting in the production of information materials such as films, radio programs and publications.

These programs are not open-ended. In early 1969 we began the process of phasing out U. S. participation and have proceeded with this, including establishment of definite

- 2 -

cutoff dates for our assistance in the programs. Activities in Viet-Nam funded solely by USIA are scheduled for termination no later than December 31, 1972, with the great majority of activities (in television, magazine production, etc.) due to be phased out before the end of the current calendar year. There remain about five other projects, funded from USIA, AID, and/or MACV budgets, which are designed primarily for general advisory assistance to the Vietnamese Information Ministry's field operations. These are to be phased out gradually between January 1, 1972, and July 1, 1973.

It is relevant to note here that there have been a number of occasions since World War II on which information assistance to foreign governments constituted a constructive, and relatively inexpensive, part of our foreign policy. For example, in postwar Europe we provided advice and in some cases media materials to governments which had received Marshall Plan aid and which also supported many of our foreign policy objectives. Following the Marshall Plan period, the U. S. has on occasion responded to the requests of a small number of developing nations for assistance with their own information programs. This assistance was carefully tailored to our overall foreign policy goals, was designed to encourage stable and peaceful political evolution and was provided only for limited periods of time.

As a general rule, information media products prepared by U. S. Government agencies for dissemination abroad carry attribution. Depending on local circumstances, however, and the preferences of the newspaper editors, film distributors, and radio and television station managers who actually bring these products before foreign audiences, some of these materials may be unattributed.

To summarize, Mr. Chairman, we in the Executive Branch are opposed to this amendment for the following reasons:

- 3 -

1) It would interfere with the orderly completion of a variety of programs in South Viet-Nam, which are scheduled for termination in any case in the near future.

2) It would render ineffective, or eliminate, a number of constructive projects, such as the film, press, and radio tape placement programs in other parts of the world, which are designed to further significant American foreign policy objectives.

3) It would restrict our ability to respond quickly and effectively, if a future emergency should make it necessary.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that from the standpoint of the Administration's program there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Yours sincerely,

David M. Abshire
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

92^d CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1397

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 29, 1971

MR. CHURCH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To amend the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 to impose restrictions on information activities outside the United States of Government agencies.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That title V of the United States Information and Educa-
4 tional Exchange Act of 1948 (22 U.S.C. 1461-1462), re-
5 lating to the dissemination of information about the United
6 States abroad, is amended by adding at the end thereof the
7 following new section:

II

1 "RESTRICTIONS

2 "SEC. 503. (a) In carrying out the provisions of this
3 Act or any other law, no Government agency shall, directly
4 or indirectly, prepare or assist in preparing for dissemination,
5 or disseminate, information of any kind for, on behalf of, or
6 in the name of, any foreign government.

7 "(b) Any information prepared by a Government
8 agency for distribution abroad, or any such information which
9 a Government agency has assisted in preparing, shall indicate
10 clearly at the beginning of the information (1) the name of
11 the Government agency which prepared or assisted in pre-
12 paring the information, and (2) the month and year the in-
13 formation is published, recorded, filmed, or taped."

92^d CONGRESS
1st Session

S. 1397

A BILL

To amend the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 to impose restrictions on information activities outside the United States of Government agencies.

By Mr. CHURCH

MARCH 29, 1971

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations